## AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER 157<sup>th</sup> issue, July 19, 2010 PERU/US: NOAA specialist Todd Stern met Peruvian

## White House Special Envoy for Climate Change, Todd Stern, affirmed the US commitment to work with Peru to protect and preserve the environment both, bilaterally and in the context of seek-

President Alan Garcia to talk about Climate Change

ing to reach a global accord on greenhouse gas emissions.

Stern met President Alan García and told media afterwards that the United States appreciates the important role played by Peru at

an international level regarding issues like environment preservation and reduction of gas emissions.

During his presentation at the international conference "Science and Climate Change" carried out at the Universidad Agraria La Molina, Todd Stern said that it is necessary to be aware that climate change is a big danger for everybody and that, although its strength is different from that of an earthquake, it is also able to devastate whole villages, as it is already occurring.

consume energy, and the way we manage our natural resources.

Environment

In this issue...

- Global Warming Science
- Technology Energy
- REO HUB and ESTH Outreach

US Climate Change Bills

He emphasizes that the only way to fight this problem is to transform the way we produce and

"The United States is ready to lead these efforts, using its capabilities, its funding, and working along with its partners" the oficial stressed when he pointed out that struggle to mitigate the effects of climate change must not be seen as a burden but also as an economic opportunity. Washington is very engaged with Peruvian efforts to meet its goals on zero deforestation of prima-

ry rainforests for 2021. "We know that working together we can expedite these processes" he affirmed.

Ecuador: Less than 1% of oceans is protected according to Marine Conservation

versity conservation and supported the country in its commitment to reach the goal set forth in the World Congress on Protected Areas (Durban 2003), which is setting up a World Network System of Protected Marine and Coastal Areas, including at least 20-30% of each

affirmation was made by NOAA Gonzalo Cid. He explained that most of oceans of the world are open oceans. Therefore, there is a few protection. About Galapagos, he said that it is one of the first

habitat.

the Caribbean

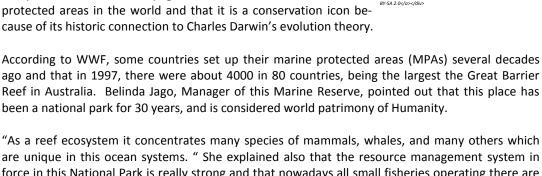
This workshop was a meaningful contribution to the debate on biodi-

Less than 1% of world oceans have an strict protection level. This Under Creative Common License. Photo attributed xmlns:cc="http://creativecommon.com/pns#" about www.ylickr.com/photos/pixculture/31587488 rel="ccattributionURL" href="http://www.hlickr.com/pnotos/pixculture/s/aprixculture/"http://www.hlickr.com/photos/pixculture/s/aprixculture/"http://www.hlickr.com/photos/pixculture/s/aprixculture/"http://www.hlickr.com/photos/pixculture/s/aprixculture/interviews/mixculture/s/aprixculture

ago and that in 1997, there were about 4000 in 80 countries, being the largest the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Belinda Jago, Manager of this Marine Reserve, pointed out that this place has been a national park for 30 years, and is considered world patrimony of Humanity. "As a reef ecosystem it concentrates many species of mammals, whales, and many others which are unique in this ocean systems. " She explained also that the resource management system in force in this National Park is really strong and that nowadays all small fisheries operating there are under sustainable management levels.

ers learn from models and experiences of these people." Capson said.

for the selected communities. Each visit will last about 10-14 days.



Read more at http://www.telegrafo.com.ec/sociedad/ecologia/noticia/archive/sociedad/ecologia/2010/07/12/Menos-del-1 2500 -de-los-oc E900 anos-est E100 -protegido.aspx Colombia/Suriname/Guyana: US Army humanitarian mission will take place as of July 2010

USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) will depart from Norfolk, Va. on July 12 to begin the four-month Continuing Promise 2010 mission. The ship's crew will conduct humanitarian and civic assistance operations in seven nations: Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Panama, and Suriname. The mission aims to foster goodwill and demonstrate U.S. commitment and support to Latin America and

Todd Capson, Marine Conservation official of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Embassy of the United States, indicated that the fact that environmental specialists had visited Guayaquil to talk about protected areas is because they are important tools for marine ideology management, as they are "complicated issues". "Therefore, this workshop expectation is that many local manag-

The ship's mission has been coordinated with partner nations in the region and planned hand-inhand with a variety of other governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to creatively address the level and scope of care required that will be needed to support regional medical

The Continuing Promise missions will provide medical, dental, veterinary and engineering support

ment and manned with a robust multi-specialized medical team of uniformed and civilian health care providers to provide a range of services. The medical/dental/veterinary crew includes medical professionals from the U.S. military and U.S. Public Health Service, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other international partners. Engineering Team. A team of Navy Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 will support community construction and repair projects.

U.S. Marine Corps support. About 500 Marines of the Special- Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) from Cherry Point, N.C. are supporting the deployment. The Marines' mission is to provide air, ground and logistics support to humanitarian civic assistance activities. They will also

Medical /Dental/Veterinary services provided. The Continuing Promise medical contingent will partner with local health care providers and community officials to provide free medical care to

The primary focus of the medical teams is to provide a range of health care services ashore. On a

be ready to provide relief to any natural/man-made disaster that may occur in the region.

case-by-case basis, select patients will receive medical or dental care on the ship.

communities with limited access to medical treatment.

The signature and promulgation by the President is pending now.

the Vice Ministry of Interculturality and Promotion of Literature and Arts.

regard.

Read more at <a href="http://www.southcom.mil/appssc/factFiles.php?id=155">http://www.southcom.mil/appssc/factFiles.php?id=155</a> Peru: Creation of the Ministry of Culture was ratified by Congress The Permanent Committee of the Congress approved yesterday the law to create the Ministry of Culture, by 24 votes in favor, 4 abstentions, and none against. The first votation was carried out on

A group of representatives from indigenous communities expressed that they did not agree with Health: Dogs may help collar Chagas disease By Beverly Clark

funded through a joint NIH-NSF program on the ecology of infectious diseases. Their work in Argentina's Chaco province is included in a June 24 special supplement of Nature, devoted to the topic of Chagas disease. Read more at http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\_releases/2010-07/eu-dmh071210.php

Kitron is collaborating with Ricardo Gürtler of the University of Buenos Aires on a research project

The three former heads of state are the co-presidents of the influential Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy, which strives to inform drug policy in the region and to contribute towards more effective, safe and humane drug policies. Joining them in supporting the Vienna Declaration are three other influential Latin American figures - Peruvian writer, journalist and essayist Mario Vargas Llosa, Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho and Sergio Ramírez Mercado, writer and former vice-president of Nicaragua. "The war on drugs has had such an incredibly negative impact on Latin America, and the fact that

demic peers, that have assessed the environmental impact of this type of mining at the Appalachian Region, representing 10% of US coal production. As a conclusion, it is said that, resulting from the management methods and disposition of huge volumes of remaining inert material after any open-pit mining operation (rocks and other soil and underground materials), serious and irreversible damages in water sources and biodiversity have been generated, and are not compensated by mitigation measures. Therefore, the Government is recommended to not to issue new permits unless new coal extraction methods be scientifically and accurately assessed and verified

Ago 17-18, 2010 Low Carbon Sustainable Economies Workshop: South American Perspectives, organized by REO, USAID, and US Southcom. Lima, Sept 13-24, 2010 REO Adriana Quevedo will undertake the ESTH Tradecraft Training Programme. **REO Indran Amirthanayagam meeting with worldwide ESTH officials** in Washington D.C. X Latin American Congress on Botany - La Serena, Chile Regional Congress on Renewable Energies in Peru, organized by the

CEPRECYT and to be held at

carry out his orientation visit to this country.

Feb 2, 2010: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Track this bill here: <a href="http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1733">http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1733</a>

Sen. John Kerry [D-MA] - Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act.

needs Continuing Promise is an annual humanitarian civic assistance operation supported by U.S. and international military medical personnel, U.S. government agencies, regional health ministries, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and U.S. academic institutions. U.S. Naval Forces Southern

Command/U.S. 4th Fleet (NAVSO/4th Fleet) is the main planning and coordination command for the

Health Care Teams. For this deployment, USS Iwo Jima was configured with special medical equip-

mission. This is the fifth such humanitarian deployment to the region since 2007.

June 23 by the Congress in full, obtaining 65 approving votes, 6 votes against, and 16 abstentions.

According to the document signed yesterday, this ministry will be the ruling entity on culture matters and will be exclusive competency to formulate, assess, and supervise national policies on this

This sector will have two vice-ministries: the Vice Ministry of Cultural Patrimony and Industries, and

rural poor in Latin America. The main vector for the parasite Trypanosoma cruzi is the triatomine insect, or "kissing bug," which thrives in the nooks and crannies of mud-brick dwellings. The bug sucks the blood of mammals, helping T. cruzi move between wildlife, cats, dogs and humans. "Dogs tend to lie on porches or other areas easily accessible to the bugs," says disease ecologist

Uriel Kitron, chair of environmental studies at Emory University. "And when a dog is malnourished

Kitron has been researching Chagas disease in remote communities of northern Argentina for the past 10 years. "One of our most significant findings is the importance of dogs in both the spread of the disease, and the potential to help control it," he says, explaining that dogs can make good senti-

Chagas disease begins as an acute infection that can subside on its own. In one out of three cases, however, the infection persists and can go unnoticed for decades, until it causes complications such as heart failure, digestive problems and sudden cardiac death. The condition affects 10 to 12 million

Human migration has moved Chagas disease around the globe: U.S. blood banks must now screen donors for T. cruzi. And bugs travel hidden in people's luggage to new places such as Patagonia in

and its immune system isn't great, they are even more at risk."

nels for health officials monitoring *T. cruzi* transmission.

people in Latin America, killing more than 15,000 a year.

southern Argentina.

23 July 2010.

countries."

Read

more

banquillo\_7775063-1

July 26-27, 2010

Ago 2-6, 2010

Ago 9-14, 2010

extraction in mountain zones.

much more than a simple train wagon.

at

**REO Hub and ESTH Outreach** 

Chagas disease, for example, is caused by a parasite that roams with only limited control among the

Three former Latin American presidents sign Vienna Declaration, join global call to action for science-based drug policy reform By Michael Kessler

Former presidents Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), Ernesto Zedillo (México) and César Gaviria (Colombia) today announced their endorsement of the Vienna Declaration, the official declaration of the XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010, www.aids2010.org) taking place from 18 to

The Vienna Declaration (www.viennadeclaration.com) seeks to improve community health and safety by calling for the incorporation of scientific evidence into illicit drug policies. The declaration was opened for endorsement by academics and members of the public on 28 June 2010.

"The war on drugs has failed," said Fernando Henrique Cardoso. "In Latin America, the only outcome of prohibition is to shift areas of cultivation and drug cartels from one country to another,

Authored by an international group of distinguished scientists and experts, the Vienna Declaration highlights the ways that over reliance on drug law enforcement results in a range of health and

with no reduction in the violence and corruption generated by the drug trade."

social harms including growing HIV rates among people who use drugs.

Read more at http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\_releases/2010-07/ias-tfl071210.php

on the serious environmental impact observed in the last thirty years.

Colombia: Mountain mining under judgment

traction projects in moorlands of Santurbán and La Colosa.

the Vienna Declaration is receiving this level of endorsement from former heads of state should serve as an example to those currently in power," said AIDS 2010 Chair Dr. Julio Montaner, President of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and Director of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/ AIDS (BC-CfE). "I hope that the Vienna Declaration will inspire many more political leaders to cast aside the drug war rhetoric and embrace evidence-based policies that can meaningfully improve community health and safety."

Twelve scientists from prestigious US academic centers recently asked the US Government for a moratorium on granting permits for open-pit coal mining in mountain zones. This request is based

Is a fact that Colombia is starting a stage where mining is being intensified in mountain ecosystems, which was subject to an increasing public controversy, as it was demonstrated by gold ex-

Such request to the US government is not a result from a few recalcitrant environmentalists, as some of you may be thinking. We talk about a study published by Science Magazine in January 2010, which analyzes results of about thirty scientific researches, published and reviewed by aca-

By Manuel Rodriguez Becerra

to remedy these problems. The study stress that "US shall undertake a leadership posture on these issues, specially now that a huge development of open-pit mining is expected in developing

As suggested by the scientists, these conclusions are relevant for any type of open-pit mineral

More recently, the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) presented a report to the Congress, also referred to the Appalachian, on the long-term surveillance of the open-pit coal mines

October 2010 Oct 4-10, 2010 Ministries of Mining, Agriculture, Environment, and Production. Key

Nov 5, 2009: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

May 15, 2009 - Introduced (referred to 15 different committees: http://www.govtrack.us/

Sep 30, 2009 – Introduced (referred to Senate Environment and Public Works Committee)

May 21, 2009 – Reported by committee (2 proposed amendments:

congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454&tab=committees

Addressees interested in sharing any ESTH-related events of USG interest are welcome to do so. For questions or comments, please contact us at quevedoa@state.gov.

http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454&tab=amendments) June 26, 2009 – Passed House. Bill now goes to Senate vote. July 7, 2009 – Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 97. Track this bill here: <a href="http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454">http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454</a> The information contained herein was gathered from news sources from across the region, and the views expressed below do not necessarily reflect those of the Regional Environmental HUB

Public organisms depending upon this sector will be the National Institute of Culture (INC), the Peruvian Institute for Radio and Television, the National Institute for Development Andean, Amazonian, and Afro Peruvian People (INDEPA), the National Library, the General Archive of the Nation, and the Major Academy of the Quechua Language. Once the law was promulgated, these organisms will have a 120-day term to adapt their regulations to this new Ministry. In addition, the INC will assume the duties of this ministry until its organization and duties regulation is approved, and the minister of culture is appointed. **Political Mess** Although at the end they voted in favor, the Humala's political party and the Alianza Parlamentaria Party stated to be against this law. Under the grounds that the Permanent Committee of the Congress has no competency to approve or modify organic laws, they sustained that it was necessary to modify the Organic Law of the Executive Power. However, the APRA and Unidad Nacional Parties explained that according the previously mentioned organic law and a resolution of the Constitutional Court, a simple law was required only to create the ministry of culture. INDEPA being part of the Ministry. Read more at http://elcomercio.pe/impresa/notas/ministerio-cultura-fue-ratificado-congreso/20100715/608614

already in abandon. This reports indicates that efforts on restoration and revegetation carried out in many of these mines in the past "have not been completely successful and have driven to low rates of survival and growing, forest fragmentation, reduce coal capture capability, loss of wildlife and forestry products, as well as increase of potential floods." It mentions also many negative changes in water flows and that "mining operators have not always returned the production zones as landscapes were originally nor closely similar, as regulations demand." We can denied these conclusions and should take a lesson, as they confirm the serious environ-

mental impact provoked by many surface mountain mining operations. Also, they identify the failure of the US environmental and mining authorities in charge of their control. Lessons from scientific studies and the experience of mining countries should serve as grounds for a national debate on the convenience and conditions to make feasible an open-pit mining in fragile environments, like mountain ecosystems. We are late to do so. Mining environmental sustainability is

Change. Bogotá, Colombia.

http://www.eltiempo.com/opinion/columnistas/manuelrodrguezbecerra/mineria-de-montana-al-

REO Assistant Adriana Quevedo will participate in the Roundtable on Security Planning and Policies to Meet the Challenges of Climate

REO Director Indran Amirthanayagam will address a lecture at the 2010 International Meeting on Science, Winter 2010, organized by

REO Director Indran Amirthanayagam will participate in the UNEP Inception Workshop ASGM Regional Project, La Paz, Bolivia, and will

www.encuentrocientíficointernacional.org, http://www.worldscientists.org/

INICTEL.

Oct 11-15, 2010 note addressed by REO Indran Amirthanayagam IV COBER and II ECC International Fair 2010 on Clean Technologies, Oct 13, 2010 and Efficient Use of Energy, organized by FONAM —Lima, Peru

Rep. Norman Dicks [D-WA6] - Dep. of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appro-

Oct 30, 2009 - Became Public Law No: 111-88. Read about this law here: http://

## HR 2454 Rep. Henry Waxman [D-CA30] – American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.

**U.S. Climate Change Bills** 

www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2996

HR 2996

S. 1733

priations Act, 2010

Office or of our constituent posts.